26. (New) The integrated circuit device of claim 23 further comprising a pair of outer contact regions, each being connected to one of the outer plugs.

27. (New) The integrated circuit device of claim 23, wherein the outer plugs are on opposing sides of the inner plug.

28. (New) The integrated circuit device of claim 23, wherein the pair of spacers are located on opposing sides of the inner plug.

29. (New) A data handling system comprising:

a central processing unit; and

a memory device connected to the central processing unit, the memory device including:

a number of semiconductor surface structures spaced apart along the substrate;

a number of plugs contacting the substrate between the number of surface structures, wherein the number of plugs includes an inner plug and a pair of outer plugs, each one of the outer plugs being formed adjacent to and on opposing sides of the inner plug, each one of the outer plugs having upper portions, wherein the upper portions cover top surfaces of the surface structures, wherein the inner plug is beneath the top surfaces of the surface structure; and

an inner electrical contact coupling to the inner plug and separated from the upper portions by a pair of opposing spacers.

30. (New) The data handling system of claim 29 further comprising a pair of outer contact regions, each being connected to one of the outer plugs.

31. (New) A data handling system comprising:

a central processing unit; and

a memory device connected to the central processing unit, the memory device including:

first and a second surface structures, each having a top surface;

an inner plug located in between the first and second surface structures and beneath the top surface of each of the first and second surface structures;

a pair of outer plugs, each having an upper portion covered the top surface of one of the first and second surface structures;

an inner electrical contact connected to the inner plug; and

a pair of spacers for separating the inner plug and the inner electrical contact from the pair of outer plugs.

32. (New) The data handling system of claim 31 further comprising a pair of outer contact regions, each being connected to one of the outer plugs.

33. (New) The data handling system of claim 31, wherein the outer plugs are on opposing sides of the inner plug.

34. (New) The data handling system of claim 31, wherein the pair of spacers are located on opposing sides of the inner plug.

Claims 1-34 are now pending in this application. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative, Viet Tong, (612) 373-6969 with any questions regarding the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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